

Chatham Township's Food Composting Program

Composting reduces the amount of waste that needs to be hauled away to a landfill and reduces the cost of such waste removal. Recognized as first of its kind in the nation, the Chatham Township's "Food Composting Program" is set apart from other composting programs because of its three key ingredients. The Chatham Township Environmental Commission integrates the composting efforts of its residents, community organizations and schools, provides educational composting outreach that links everyone in the community to the program, and employs the use of a Rocket® Composter.



Back in 2009, the township's Environmental Commission introduced their food composting program, known locally as "Save it To Spade it," and by April 2010, the township was running free composting workshops for residents, teachers, and other members of the community, and also offered low cost, "backyard" composters. Today, residents, schools, Scouts, local Master Gardeners and other organizations have the "backyard" composters in use.

On Saturday, April 9, 2011, CTEC ran another free Composting Workshop and, thanks to a Sustainable Jersey Grant, the Commission was also able to provide some free backyard composters to eligible Chatham Township residents.



The township's Commission applied for a Sustainable Jersey™ Grant and was awarded \$25,000 for its unique food composting program. The grant money paid for the Rocket® Composter, composting programs for Chatham Township residents, and educational materials for the schools and residents. For more information about the

backyard composting portion of our "Save it To Spade it Program," go to <http://www.chathamtownship.org/CTEC/CompostersRainBarrels-Multi-Municipalities.pdf>.